

"Lectionary mods" from the Open Source Lectionary

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

October 29, 2013

Of the four projects I focused on in [my article on alternate lectionaries](#), Eric Lemonholm's Open Source Lectionary arguably got the least attention—the fewest words, the fourth slot of four. But that's not because I found it to be the least interesting or significant.

Instead, I gave the Open Source Lectionary less ink because it's a different kind of project. It doesn't create an entire lectionary or lectionary year from scratch; it proposes a shift in the way we think about and use the lectionary we have. And I placed Lemonholm's work last mostly just to pivot tidily to the article's conclusion. Which is to say that I generally agree with him.

In the article I mention that [Lemonholm's website](#) offers several examples of series that might be used to "move outside the lectionary for a season." He calls these "lectionary mods"; his point is not to replace the *RCL* but to use it more flexibly. "Being able to choose series mods," he told me, "would allow congregations to focus in on a book or theme over time, and build an awareness of the full biblical story."

Lemonholm's all about flexibility and context, so he [presents his lectionary mods](#) less as resources for others to use than as examples of what they might create themselves. But I'm tempted to try a couple of them:

- A [summer series on Genesis](#), focusing first on the early chapters and then on Jacob
- A [semi-continuous John year](#) that hits the *RCL*'s Holy Week weekday readings late in Lent
- [Reading through Luke 1](#) as the Year C Advent Gospel readings
- A [modification and extension of Revelation](#)'s appearance in Year C Eastertide

Simple ideas but useful ones. Read more [here](#).